

## Message Text

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SUBJECT: NOON PRESS BRIEFING

FOLLOWING IS TRANSCRIPT OF OFFICIAL ANNOUNCEMENT AT TODAY'S  
NOON PRESS BRIEFING (2/6/76) AND EXCERPTS FROM BACKGROUND  
BRIEFING BY ASSISTANT SECRETARY ROGERS' OF SECRETARY  
KISSINGER'S TRIP TO LATIN AMERICA:

ANNOUNCEMENT: THE SECRETARY HAS ACCEPTED INVITATIONS TO  
VISIT SEVERAL LATIN AMERICAN COUNTRIES. HE WILL GO TO  
LATIN AMERICA ON A NINE-DAY TRIP BEGINNING FEBRUARY 16TH.  
HE WILL VISIT VENEZUELA, FEBRUARY 16 TO 18. PERU, ON  
FEBRUARY 18 - 19. BRAZIL, FEBRUARY 19 - 22. COLOMBIA ON  
FEBRUARY 22 - 23. COSTA RICA ON FEBRUARY 23 - 24.

THE SECRETARY WILL RETURN TO WASHINGTON ON THE 24TH.

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EXCERPT BACKGROUNDER: I HAVE ASKED BILL ROGERS, ASSISTANT  
SECRETARY OF STATE FOR INTER AMERICAN AFFAIRS, TO JOIN US  
AT THIS POINT, TO ANSWER ANY QUESTIONS YOU MAY HAVE ABOUT  
THE VISIT. THE USUAL BACKGROUND RULES APPLY:

Q: BEFORE WE GET TO THAT, CAN I ASSUME THESE ARE THE CAPITALS--THAT IN BRAZIL, IS IT BRAZILIA AND RIO?

A: THAT WILL BE BRAZILIA AND RIO.

Q: DO YOU HAVE THE SPECIFICS, WHEN IN BRAZILIA AND WHEN IN RIO?

A: WE WILL HAVE THAT LATER. IT WILL START IN BRAZILIA AND THEN GO TO RIO.

MR. ROGERS: IF IT WOULD BE HELPFUL I MIGHT SAY A WORD OR TWO ABOUT THE ATMOSPHERE AND SETTING AS WE PERCEIVE IT, WITH RESPECT TO THIS TRIP:

I THINK IT IS FAIR TO SAY THAT WITH RESPECT TO OUR OVERALL OBJECTIVE--WHY THE SECRETARY IS GOING--WE TEND TO THINK OF IT MOSTLY IN TERMS OF THE INCREASINGLY SIGNIFICANT ROLE THAT THE NATIONS OF LATIN AMERICA ARE PLAYING IN RESPECT TO THE NORTH-SOUTH DIALOGUE.

I THINK, IN TERMS OF ATMOSPHERE, WE TEND TO THINK, IF GENERALIZATIONS ARE AT ALL USEFUL, THAT THE TONE OF OUR RELATIONS WITH LATIN AMERICA IS RATHER BETTER THAN IT HAS BEEN FOR SOME TIME.

WE THINK THAT THIS, IN PART, REFLECTS A GRUDGING UNDERSTANDING BY THE LATIN AMERICANS THAT WE ARE TRYING TO PAY MORE ATTENTION TO THEIR INTERESTS AND CONCERNS--THAT WE HAVE BEEN MAKING SOME PROGRESS WITH RESPECT TO HEALING OLD SORES, SUCH AS THE REMOVAL FROM THE INTER AMERICAN AGENDA, OF CUBA AS AN AGGRAVATING ISSUE--AND OUR ONGOING GOOD FAITH EFFORT TO MODERNIZE OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH PANAMA.

BEYOND THAT, OF COURSE, THE VERY IMPORTANT INITIATIVES THAT THE SECRETARY PROPOSED AT THE SEVENTH SPECIAL SESSION  
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OF THE UNITED NATIONS--THE LAUNCHING OF CIEC--AND EVEN OUR INITIATIVES WITH RESPECT TO THE REFORM OF THE OAS--I THINK HAVE ALL BEEN CONTRIBUTING TO A MORE CREDIBLE POSTURE BY THE UNITED STATES IN LATIN AMERICA.

BUT WE ALSO FULLY UNDERSTAND THAT THERE IS A STRONG STRAIN OF OPINION IN LATIN AMERICA THAT WE (THE UNITED STATES) DO NOT PAY ENOUGH ATTENTION TO THEIR CONCERN--WE DON'T LISTEN TO THEM ENOUGH, AND ON OCCASION OUR RESPONSE TO THEIR INTERESTS AND ISSUES HAS BEEN LESS THAN IT SHOULD HAVE BEEN.

AND OBVIOUSLY, ONE CLASSIC EXAMPLE OF THAT IS THE OPEC

EXCLUSION FROM THE GENERALIZED SYSTEM OF PREFERENCES.

THE SECRETARY'S VISIT IS ESSENTIALLY FOR THE PURPOSE OF MEETING WITH IMPORTANT LATIN AMERICAN LEADERS IN THAT CONTEXT OF OUR RELATIONSHIPS. HE WILL BE SEEING THE PRESIDENTS, AND HEADS OF STATE, OF A CONSIDERABLE NUMBER OF THE COUNTRIES OF THE HEMISPHERE--TEN IN ALL--AND WILL BE DISCUSSING THE WIDE VARIETY OF LONG TERM ISSUES THAT I HAVE TOUCHED ON HERE IN OUR OPENNING STATEMENT.

Q: TEN DIFFERENT HEADS OF STATE?

A: YES.

Q: FIVE COUNTRIES?

A: YES, FIVE COUNTRIES AND TEN HEADS OF STATE. HE WILL BE MEETING THE HEADS OF STATE OF CENTRAL AMERICA, WHO WILL BE INVITED TO SAN JOSE--WHO ARE BEING INVITED TO SAN JOSE BY THE PRESIDENT OF COSTA RICA.

Q: WELL THAT WILL NOT INCLUDE, THE, THE PANAMANIAN?

A: NO, HE WILL BE ALSO INVITED.

Q: WHO WILL BE FOR CENTRAL AMERICA?

A: GUATEMALA DOWN TO PANAMA.  
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Q: BUT HE IS REALLY MEETING THE HEADS OF STATE OF FIVE COUNTRIES--OF FIVE COUNTRIES OF LATIN AMERICA, AND FIVE COUNTRIES FROM CENTRAL AMERICA?

A: CORRECT.

Q: WHAT HAPPENED WITH ARGENTINA AND CHILE?

A: WHAT HAPPENED?

Q: YES.

Q: BECAUSE IN THE LAST ANNOUNCEMENT, THIS YEAR, ARGENTINA AND CHILE WAS INCLUDED.

A: THERE ARE A NUMBER OF COUNTRIES, OBVIOUSLY, THAT BY DEFINITION ARE EXCLUDED. WE COULD NOT DO ALL OF THEM. THE FACT THAT THESE ARE THE COUNTRIES THAT ARE ON THE ITINERARY NOW DOES NOT EXCLUDE BY ANY MEANS THE POSSIBILITY OF A LATER TRIP BY THE SECRETARY.

Q: HOW WERE THESE SELECTED? HOW WERE THESE SELECTED AND

MEXICO AND ARGENTINA AND CHILE EXCLUDED, FOR INSTANCE?

A: YOU KNOW, COMPARISONS ARE ALL--

THESE ITINERARIES SEEMED TO FIT TOGETHER. BOTH ARGENTINA AND CHILE ARE OBVIOUSLY THAT MUCH FURTHER SOUTH. WE HAVE IN MIND THE FACT THAT THE OAS GENERAL ASSEMBLY IS SCHEDULED TO MEET IN CHILE LATER ON IN THE YEAR.

Q: AND HE MIGHT GO?

A: THAT WILL BE A MINISTERIAL MEETING.

Q: WOULD HE BE GOING TO THAT?

A: I DON'T KNOW. WE HAVE NOT SETTLED THAT.

Q: ON THIS ISSUE--THE DOMESTIC SITUATION BOTH IN CHILE AND UNCLASSIFIED

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IN ARGENTINA PLAYED A CERTAIN PART IN THEIR EXCLUSION?

A: NO, I WOULD NOT WANT TO COMMENT ABOUT THAT. I THINK THAT THE ITINERARY STANDS ON ITS OWN FEET.

Q: EXCUSE ME, BUT ISN'T THIS A SOMEWHAT DISINGENOUS WAY TO EXPLAIN AWAY ARGENTINA AND CHILE? I MEAN IT'S QUITE CLEAR THAT IN ARGENTINA, FOR EXAMPLE, SECURITY PLAYS A LARGE ROLE. AND IT'S ALSO, EQUALLY CLEAR THAT CHILE IS A MUCH MORE INFLAMMATORY SUBJECT DOMESTICALLY. DOESN'T THAT PLAY ANY ROLE AT ALL?

A: WELL THE THING THAT PLAYS THE MOST IMPORTANT ROLE, OBVIOUSLY, IS THE FACT THAT TIME IS NOT INFINITE. I MEAN, YOU HAVE TO CHOOSE TO GO TO SOME COUNTRIES--YOU CAN'T CHOOSE TO GO TO ALL OF THEM.

THESE COUNTRIES THAT HE WILL BE VISITING SEEM TO BE THE COUNTRIES THAT FIT TOGETHER IN A COHERENT, GEOGRAPHICALLY PROXIMATE TRIP.

Q: BUT YOU ARE NOT--

A: WE ARE NOT SAYING ANYTHING THAT IS NEGATIVE WITH RESPECT TO ARGENTINA AND/OR CHILE. I WANT TO MAKE THAT VERY CLEAR.

Q: BUT ARGENTINA IS A BIG COUNTRY, AND IT IS VERY NEAR BRAZIL. HE COULD HAVE GONE THERE.

A: ALL OF THE COUNTRIES IN SOUTH AMERICA THAT HE WILL BE VISITING ARE BIG, AND ALL ARE SIGNIFICANT.

Q: I MEAN REALLY--

A: I REALLY DON'T THINK IT WOULD BE FAIR TO TRY TO EXTRACT NEGATIVE IMPLICATIONS FROM THE WAY THE ITINERARY IS SCHEDULED. THESE ARE ALL SIGNIFICANT COUNTRIES AND THERE ARE POSITIVE REASONS FOR GOING TO REACH ONE OF THEM.

Q: CAN YOU CONFIRM THAT THE SECRETARY IS GOING TO MEET  
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WITH FOREIGN MINISTER QUIJANO, OF ARGENTINA, HERE NEXT WEEK?

A: YES, HE WILL BE MEETING WITH QUIJANO.

Q: WHAT DAY?

A: I DON'T THINK WE HAVE FINALLY SET A DATE YET. I THINK THE FOREIGN MINISTER WILL BE IN NEW YORK MOST OF NEXT WEEK, AND THE SCHEDULE WILL BE SETTLED IN TERMS OF HIS CONVENIENCE AND THE SECRETARY'S.

Q: SO HE MIGHT MEET HIM IN NEW YORK, FOR INSTANCE, ON THE WAY BACK FROM BOSTON?

A: I THINK IT IS MORE LIKELY THAT THEY WILL MEET HERE.

Q: CAN WE HAVE THAT ON THE RECORD, THE QUIJANO-KISSINGER--

A: YOU CAN HAVE THE FACT THAT WE ARE GOING TO HAVE THE QUIJANO-KISSINGER MEETING (ON THE RECORD).

MR. FUNSETH: YOU CAN ASK ME THAT AT THE BRIEFING.

MR. ROGERS: YOU WILL HAVE AN ANNOUNCEMENT ON THAT.

Q: THEY HAVE MET PREVIOUSLY AND PRIVATELY WITH BRAZIL AND A NUMBER OF OTHER COUNTRIES--

A: YES, HE HAS VISITED BRAZIL BEFORE AND SPENT, I THINK, CONSIDERABLE TIME THERE--I THINK SOMETHING LIKE TEN DAYS OR A WEEK IN RIO.

Q: PRIVATELY?

A: YES, AS A PRIVATE CITIZEN.

Q: IS THAT THE ONLY COUNTRIES HE HAS VISITED?

A: THAT IS THE ONLY ONE I KNOW ABOUT, THERE MAY BE OTHERS.

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Q: WOULD THE CUBAN INVOLVEMENT IN ANGOLA OR ELSEWHERE, BE DISCUSSED DURING THIS TRIP?

A: OH, I THINK SO, YES, THIS IS A MATTER OF CONSIDERABLE SIGNIFICANCE TO US.

Q: WELL WON'T THAT UNDO YOUR SUCCESS IN GETTING CUBA OUT OF THE INTER-AMERICAN DIALOGUE, WHICH YOU JUST BEGAN BY SAYING IS ONE OF THE REASONS OUR RELATIONS ARE BETTER, BECAUSE WE DON'T MAKE AN ISSUE OF CUBA ANYMORE?

A: I AM NOT SURE I FOLLOWED YOU--

Q: ALL RIGHT--I AM NOT SURE I PHRASED IT VERY WELL.

AT THE BEGINNING, YOU WERE SAYING THAT THINGS WERE BETTER, AND ONE OF THE REASONS THINGS ARE BETTER WAS BECAUSE THE DISRUPTIVE ISSUE OF CUBA DOESN'T KEEP GETTING IN THE WAY OF OUR DEALINGS IN LATIN AMERICA.

A: YES.

Q: WELL IF HE IS GOING TO TALK ABOUT CUBAN INVOLVEMENT IN ANGOLA, AREN'T WE GOING TO HAVE THAT DISRUPTION ALL OVER AGAIN?

A: NO, THE DISRUPTION THAT CUBA REPRESENTED, THE VEXATION OF THE CUBAN ISSUE UP UNTIL THE SAN JOSE MEETING AROSE FROM THE FACT THAT CUBA, SINCE SHE WAS DIVIDING THE HEMISPHERE--IF THERE WERE A GENERAL OAS RESOLUTION UNDER THE RIO TREATY WHICH PURPORTED TO PROHIBIT ALL THE NATIONS OF THE HEMISPHERE FROM HAVING ANY DIPLOMATIC OR COMMERCIAL RELATIONSHIPS WITH CUBA WHATSOEVER--A CONSIDERABLE NUMBER OF COUNTRIES--MAJOR COUNTRIES--WERE VIOLATING THAT PROVISION.

Q: RIGHT.

A: THUS BRINGING INTO QUESTION, OF COURSE, THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE WHOLE COLLECTIVE SECURITY SYSTEM OF THE RIO  
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TREATY.

IN THAT SENSE--

Q: YES.

A: THE NATIONS OF THE HEMISPHERE WERE QUITE DIVIDED. BY REPEALING THAT RESOLUTION AND PERMITTING EACH COUNTRY TO DECIDE FOR ITSELF--LEAVING EACH COUNTRY FREE TO HAVE RELATIONS WITH CUBA--YOU HAVE GOT THE CUBAN ISSUE OFF THE

AMERICAN AGENDA AS A DIVISIVE ISSUE.

Q: YES.

A: AND I THINK IT WILL STAY OFF, AS A DIVISIVE SITUATION.

SEE, CUBA DOES NOT NOW DIVIDE THE HEMISPHERE. THE NATIONS OF THE HEMISPHERE ARE NOT ANGRY AT U.S. POLICY WITH RESPECT TO CUBA.

WE WILL, HOWEVER, NOW BE CONSULTING WITH THE OTHER NATIONS OF THE HEMISPHERE ABOUT THE EFFECT OF THE CUBAN INTERVENTION.

Q: ALL RIGHT, NOW, PERHAPS I SHOULD PUT IT THIS WAY?

HAVE YOU FOUND, SO FAR, THAT THE OTHER COUNTRIES IN THE HEMISPHERE SHARE OUR FEELINGS ABOUT CUBA'S INVOLVEMENT IN ANGOLA? ARE THEY AS ALARMED AND AS UPSET AS THE SECRETARY OF STATE IS ABOUT CUBAN INTERFERENCE IN ANGOLA? OR IS IT A DIVISIVE ISSUE?

A: I CAN'T. NO, I AM NOT SURE. OBVIOUSLY, SOME COUNTRIES FEEL DIFFERENTLY ABOUT IT THAN OTHERS.

Q: YES.

A: I CAN'T TELL YOU THAT THEY ALL FEEL EXACTLY THE SAME AS WE DO, BECAUSE WE DON'T HAVE AN UNDERSTANDING OF THE PRECISE POLICY POSITION OF EACH ONE OF THE COUNTRIES WITH UNCLASSIFIED

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RESPECT TO THE EVOLVING SITUATION IN ANGOLA.

I CAN SAY HOWEVER WE DO HAVE AT THIS STAGE INDICATIONS THAT SOME COUNTRIES HAVE--ARE CONSIDERABLY APPREHENSIVE ABOUT WHAT THE ANGOLAN INTERVENTION BY CUBA CONSTITUTES BY WAY OF A PRECEDENT FOR THIS HEMISPHERE. NOW I WILL CITE YOU FOR EXAMPLE, MR. FACIO'S STATEMENT IN PANAMA, LAST WEEK, IN WHICH HE DISCUSSED THE CUBAN INTERVENTION IN VERY STRONG TERMS.

WE WILL, HOWEVER, I THINK, HAVE A MUCH BETTER IMPRESSION--JUDGMENT--EVIDENCE OF THE ATTITUDES WITHIN LATIN AMERICA ABOUT CUBA AFTER WE RETURN, THAN WE DO NOW.

Q: JUST ONE QUESTION: HAS ANY OTHER LATIN COUNTRY

BESIDES BRAZIL RECOGNIZED THE MPLA?

A: NOT THAT I KNOW OF.

Q: DO YOU HAVE ANY FEELING THAT ANY ARE LEANING THAT WAY?

A: NOT THAT I KNOW OFF HAND. I DON'T RECALL ANY RIGHT OFF HAND. WE CAN CHECK THAT, IF YOU LIKE.

Q: WOULD THERE BE ANY EFFORT TO TRY TO CONVINCE BRAZIL TO TRY TO CHANGE ITS POSITION IN RELATION TO THE MPLA?

A: I DON'T THINK SO.

YOU SAY, WOULD THERE HAVE BEEN ANY--ANY WHAT? ANY "OUTLOOK" FOR IT?

Q: ANY EFFORT TO CONVINCE BRAZIL TO CHANGE ITS POSITION?

A: NO, NO, WE ARE NOT GOING DOWN WITH THE PURPOSE OF ASKING BRAZIL TO CHANGE ITS POSITION, IN ANY SENSE. WE ARE GOING TO CONSULT ON THIS MATTER. IT IS NOT AT THE TOP OF THE AGENDA.

Q: IS IT LIKELY THAT ANY TREATIES WILL BE SIGNED IN ANY OF THE COUNTRIES IN ANY WAY?  
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A: NO, I DON'T THINK WE ANTICIPATED THE ANNOUNCEMENT OR A SIGNATURE OF ANY MAJOR AGREEMENTS.

Q: JUST GSP FOR AMOMENT.

HAS THERE BEEN ANY CHANGE, DO YOU KNOW, IN CONGRESS--HAVE THEY BEEN MAKING ANY MOVES ABOUT THIS BUSINESS ABOUT EXCLUDING--

A: THE SECRETARY SPOKE ON THIS ISSUE AND IN HIS APPEARANCE BEFORE THE FINANCE COMMITTEE ON JANUARY THE 30TH, IN WHICH HE AGAIN REITERATED THE ADMINISTRATION'S POSITION WITH RESPECT TO THE IMPORTANCE OF THE CHANGE IN THAT POSITION.

WE HAVE BEEN FOLLOWING UP, SINCE THEN, WITH THE CONGRESS--BOTH ON THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE SIDE--TO URGE THEM TO CONSIDER THE POSSIBILITY OF A CHANGE.

Q: STILL IN LATIN--BRAZIL IS THE ONLY ONE COUNTRY THAT RECOGNIZES THE MPLA?

A: THAT IS MY OFF-HAND RECOLLECTION AT THE PRESENT TIME. WE CAN CHECK THAT FURTHER.



Q: DOES ANYBODY HAVE THAT RECOLLECTION DIFFERENTLY?

A: I DON'T THINK SO.

Q: DO I UNDERSTAND ABOUT THIS THAT KISSINGER, THAT THIS IS THE FIRST TIME HE HAS BEEN TO LATIN AMERICA? AS A GOVERNMENT OFFICIAL, IS THAT CORRECT--AND WHILE HE WAS IN THE WHILE HOUSE OR SECRETARY OF STATE?

A: NO, THERE ARE TWO PRECEDENTS:

ONE, HIS TRIP TO PANAMA, WHICH WAS FEBRUARY OF 1974 IF I RECALL CORRECTLY, IN WHICH HE SIGNED THE EIGHT PRINCIPALS--AND THERE ARE THREE EXAMPLES.

SEVERAL VISITS TO MEXICO; BOTH ON PRIVATE VACATIONS AND DURING THE TLATELOLCO CONFERENCE.  
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THIRDLY, HIS VISIT TO JAMAICA OVER CHRISTMAS THIS PAST YEAR.

Q: WHEN WAS THE LAST TIME THAT AN AMERICAN PRESIDENT WAS IN LATIN AMERICA?

A: L.B.J.

Q: WELL, APART FROM CENTRAL AMERICA. WHEN DID HE GO TO SOUTH AMERICA?

A: THE QUESTION WAS: HAS HE EVER BEEN IN SOUTH AMERICA AS SECRETARY OF STATE--AND THE ANSWER IS NO, HE HAS NOT BEEN TO SOUTH AMERICA AS SECRETARY OF STATE.

Q: GOOD, THANK YOU VERY MUCH, WE ARE VERY GRATEFUL.

END TRANSCRIPT AND EXCERPTS. SISCO

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